encodes a TNHX transporter polypeptide, a PNHX transporter polypeptide or a polypeptide having Na^+/H^+ transporter activity and capable of increasing salt tolerance in a cell;

[d] (b) a nucleic acid molecule degenerate with respect to (a) wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a TNHX transporter polypeptide, a PNHX transporter polypeptide or a polypeptide having Na^+/H^+ transporter activity and capable of increasing salt tolerance in a cell.

Claim 53 (Amended)

A method of producing a genetically transformed plant which expresses or overexpresses a TNHX transporter polypeptide, a PNHX transporter polypeptide or a polypeptide having Na^+/H^+ transporter activity and capable of increasing salt tolerance in a cell and wherein the plant has increased salt tolerance, comprising:

[e)] (a) cloning or synthesizing a TNHX nucleic acid molecule, a PNHX nucleic acid molecule or a nucleic acid molecule which codes for a Na^+/H^+ transporter polypeptide, wherein the polypeptide is capable of providing salt tolerance to a plant;

[f)] (b) inserting the nucleic acid molecule in a vector so that the nucleic acid molecule is operably linked to a promoter;

[g)] (c) inserting the vector into a plant cell or a plant seed;

[h)] (d) regenerating the plant from the plant cell or plant seed, wherein salt tolerance in the plant is increased compared to a wild type plant.

Please add the following claim:

Claim 55 (New)

The nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 comprising any one of SEQ ID NO.1, SEQ ID NO.3, SEQ ID NO.17 SEQ ID NO.19.